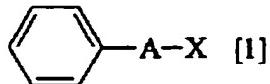


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for deuteration of a hydrogen atom of a methyl group or a hydrogen atom bonded to a carbon atom at benzyl position and the other carbon atoms of an alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, in a compound containing the methyl group or the alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, directly bonded to an aromatic ring which may have a substituent, which comprises placing said compound in a deuterated solvent in the presence of activated palladium carbon, under sealed reflux condition.
2. (Original) The method for deuteration according to claim 1, wherein said compound containing the methyl group or the alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, directly bonded to the aromatic ring which may have the substituent is a compound having said methyl group.
3. (Original) The method for deuteration according to claim 1, wherein said compound containing the methyl group or the alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, directly bonded to the aromatic ring which may have the substituent, is a compound containing said alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, directly bonded to the aromatic ring which may have a substituent.
4. (Original) The method for deuteration according to claim 1, wherein said compound containing the methyl group or the alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, directly bonded to the aromatic ring, in said compound containing the methyl group or the alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, directly bonded to the aromatic ring which may have the substituent, is a compound represented by the general formula [1]:



(wherein A is a methylene group or an alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms; and X is a hydrogen atom, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, an acyl group, an acylamino group or an alkoxy carbonyl group; and when A is a methylene group, X is a hydrogen atom).

5. (Previously presented) The method for deuteration according to claim 4, wherein the alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, represented by A is a straight chained alkylene group and X is a hydrogen atom, a carboxyl group, an acyl group, an acylamino group or an alkoxy carbonyl group.

6. (Previously presented) The method for deuteration according to claim 4, wherein the alkylene group having not less than 2 carbon atoms, represented by A is a straight chained alkylene group having not less than 3 carbon atoms and X is an alkoxy group, a hydroxyl group or an amino group.

7. (Previously presented) The method for deuteration according to claim 1, wherein the substituent, which an aromatic ring may have, is one selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, an alkoxy group, a nitro group and an amino group.

8. (Cancelled)